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8 September 1960

Col. Robert Herndon, Commander,
Aeronautical Chart and Information Center,
Second and Arsenal Streets,
St. Louis 18, Missouri

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Dear Col. Herndon:

Reference is made to the letter of 23 August 1960 from Mr. Robert Kingsley to [redacted], inquiring about the action taken on a proposal to send a geodesist to the USSR on a one-year scholarship. Our proposal to the USIB Committee on Exchanges was submitted as one of three alternatives to a previously proposed exchange of scholarships in oceanography between the US and the USSR. This latter proposal was evaluated by an ad hoc group of the Committee as not being of net value to the United States; at the same time a suggestion was made that consideration be given to an alternative reciprocal scholarship for the US in other fields which might make the original oceanographer scholarship exchange of net benefit to the US. We submitted a brief to the USIB Committee on 22 July 1960, suggesting that a scholarship in geodesy for a US geodesist at the Novosibirsk Institute of Geodesy, Photogrammetry and Cartography be requested from the Soviets in exchange for a one-year scholarship at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography for a Soviet oceanographer, Mr. Dmitre Shostenin. This brief, with two other alternatives, was referred on 2 August 1960 by the USIB Committee to the Scientific Intelligence Committee for evaluation. The SIC considered the matter on 17 August 1960 and reported that, on balance, the proposed alternatives would result in a net intelligence loss to the United States. It is difficult for us to understand how the argumentation developed which led to this conclusion. You probably could get more details from the USAF member on the SIC, Mr. Jonathan H. Gilmore.

We appreciate the effort made by you in making a preliminary determination of the availability of suitable candidates. While it has been suggested informally by the Secretary, USIB Committee on Exchanges that we could further pursue the matter independently of the above case, by seeking an exchange of geodesists between the two countries, it is our belief that this would prove fruitless since in April 1960 the Soviets submitted an aide memoire to the Department of State stating that Soviet organizations were not interested in an exchange in the near future in the field of cartography and geodesy. It was our hope that perhaps an

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exchange wanted very much by the Soviets might have enticed an exchange in which we had a strong interest. We regret that this didn't work out.

Please accept our appreciation to you and your staff for the positive consideration given this matter.

Sincerely yours,

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[redacted]

Chief, Geographic Research
Research and Reports

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